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January 30, 1956

Mr. Roger Fisher  
701 Union Trust Building  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

You are aware from Mr. Percival F. Brundage's letter to you, January 18, 1956, that your letter to him, January 10, 1956, has been referred to me. In your letter you requested that the Office of Defense Mobilization take a fresh look at the problem involved in selecting a location for the proposed Central Intelligence Agency building.

The interest of this Office in the matter is in the application of the dispersion policy. This policy recognizes that economic, operational, and administrative requirements may provide a legitimate basis for exceptions to it. The head of the agency concerned is responsible for determining whether the nature of the activity will permit the use of a dispersed location.

An exception in this case was granted. When an exception is justified, it is in keeping with the objective of the dispersion policy that as much security as possible be achieved consistent with the needs which justified the exception. In achieving this security, distance, topography, and protective construction are important.

While the Office of Defense Mobilization has made no recommendation as to a suitable location for the proposed building, it is my opinion that the location should be as far removed from the center of the target area as the needs which justified the exception will permit.

I am sure that Mr. Allen Dulles is motivated by these considerations in searching for a suitable location.

Sincerely,

Victor E. Cooley  
Acting Director

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

SUMMARY SHEET

(Director's Outgoing Correspondence)

TO: The Director

The following is a brief summary of the background and the substance of the attached communication prepared for your signature:

Letter to Mr. Roger Fisher re his letter to Mr. Brundage which was referred to Mr. Cooley. Reply states ODM's interest in CIA building location is limited to dispersion; exception to dispersion policy granted; as much security as possible notwithstanding the exception is encouraged.

This reply consistent with letter from Governor Adams to Mr. Fisher, same subject, January 23, 1956.

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/s/ V. B. Cooley

The following officials have concurred in this communication:

Colonel White, Central Intelligence Agency  
code 143, extension   
on January 26, 1956.

STAT

FROM /s/ NSP

DATE

W. S. Paul, Lt Gen, USA (ret)

Jan 27, 1956

OFFICE

TELEPHONE

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Vaughan 1/27/56

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THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

(To Remain With Correspondence)

TO Director, Office of Defense

Mobilization

Attn: Mr. Innis Harris

Prompt handling is essential. When draft reply is requested the basic correspondence must be returned. If any delay in submission of draft reply is encountered, please telephone Office of the Staff Secretary.

Date January 25, 1956

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

ACTION: Comment

Draft reply

For direct reply

For your information and files

For necessary action

For appropriate handling

See below

Remarks:

By direction of the President:

/s/  
A. J. GOODPASTER  
Staff Secretary

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